

भारत सरकार  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

विदेश मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF MEA

फाइल नं०

FILE No.

No. J/II/551/13/86

संख्या  
VOLUME

Afghanistan Unit

अनुभाग  
SECTION

टिप्पणियाँ / पत्राचार  
NOTES / CORRESPONDENCE

विषय  
Subject

Regarding acquiring of the House at Kabul  
in which Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose stayed,  
as a national monument.

को सूचित की गई  
Indexed on  
आवृत्ति  
Initials

अनिरोधक/व  
Record A/B  
में नष्ट की जाय  
Record C Destroyed in

अनुभागीय नोट बुक में  
नोट किया जाय  
नोट न किया जाय

To be noted  
Not to be noted In Sectional Note Book

यह न/अधीक्षक के हस्ताक्षर

Initial of S.O./Supdt.

लिपिक के हस्ताक्षर

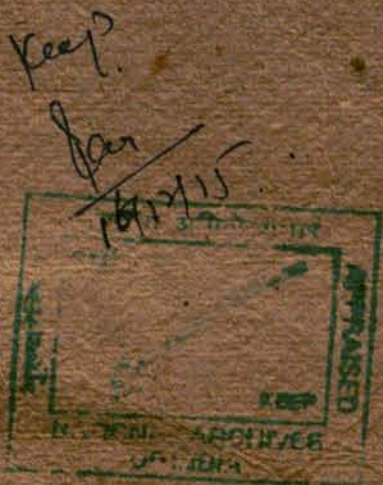
Initial of Clerk

पिछले संदर्भ  
Previous Reference

उपरोक्त के संदर्भ  
Later Reference

J/II/125/30/88

DECLASSIFIED



(सिद्धि मन्त्र)  
(Siddhi Mantra)  
30/11/88 (15/11/88)  
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली  
Ministry of External Affairs  
New Delhi



Ministry of External Affairs  
(IPA Division)

Reference FR.

2. The house where Netaji stayed in transit in Kabul was inspected by a team of the Indian Embassy. FS(Projects) has given a rough statement of expenditure of Afghani 5 million equivalent to Rs.1 million, at the prevailing rate of exchange, for repairs and renovation of the existing structure. This does not take into consideration the cost of the acquisition of land and building.

3. The recommendation of the team is that keeping in view the location of the building and the proposed redevelopment of the area by Afghan government, repairs and renovation could be deferred for the time being. (Flag 'A').

4. When the question was examined in June 1986 in consultation with PMO it was agreed that if we were to acquire houses where our leaders of the past had stayed in different parts of the world there would be no end to it. It is best that our national monuments are generally in India itself so that they serve as examples to our people. MOS(N) while replying to special mention in Lok Sabha on 3 September, 1988 reiterated the same view and stated "it was not a house in which Netaji stayed permanently. It was only a transit point and it is doubtful whether many of our nationals will visit Afghanistan in order to see the house even if we buy and maintain it as a national monument." (Flag 'B').

5. Shri Chitta Basu had written letters to PM and EAM (Flag 'C') on the acquiring of the house where Netaji had stayed in Kabul by Government of India. Before a response to Shri Basu is given a decision on the following will be required:

- whether at this stage we should review the earlier decision regarding the acquisition of the house where Subhash Chandra Bose stayed in Kabul.

6. Financial implications would depend upon the nature of the memorial to be erected. A memorial, however, modest would entail substantial costs given the present situation in Afghanistan and problems regarding availability of material, lack of transport facilities



and skilled personnel. Besides there would be the annual recurring costs for maintenance of the memorial erected.

7. If we are unable to acquire the house but still feel that there should be a memorial in Kabul to commemorate Netaji's stay there, we could examine the other alternatives like installing a statue of Netaji in the compound in IGICH or naming of the surgical ward after Netaji.

2002-Dir (IA) for  
11/3/90

~~(Mrs) (Vijay Thakur Singh)~~  
~~Under Secretary (Afg)~~  
~~6.7.1990~~

Dir (IA)

M  
12/7

JS (IPA)

We have since recd a copy of  
the reply sent by Mr to Sh. Chitra Basm. And  
have a copy of this reply.  
No further action for now.

Namish Patel  
26/7

Dir (IA)

M  
27/7

US (A)

M  
31/7/90

Lo (Afg.)

M  
31/7

M



R. Sen  
Officer on Special Duty

(1) No 30(927)/86-PM  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
NEW DELHI

551/1/86

No.

1555/JS(CAP)/86  
8/4

7 April 1986

2128/86  
9/4/86

My dear

I enclose a copy of a self-explanatory letter dated March 12, 1986, addressed to PM by Shri Chitta Basu, MP, and PM's acknowledgement of March, 17, 1986. In order to enable us to take a decision in this matter, I would be grateful if you could send us the comprehensive factual data, together with a brief account of previous correspondence of this matter, if any.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-  
(R. Sen)

Shri I.P. Khosla,  
Ambassador of India,  
Kabul.

Copy, with enclosure, to :

✓ Joint Secretary (AP) - MEA.

( R. Sen)

Officer on Special Duty  
7 April 1986

There is no other paper with us,

US (Lg) 10/4

JS (AP) 8/4

Ch. Jolly 14/4

9/4

14/4

so far

9/4

Shri Jolly

Any PPS  
★ ghy  
US  
for Mr W. Jolly  
9/5



CHITTA BASU

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
( RAJYA SABHA )



Phones : 382260  
384576

28, Gurdwara Rakabganj Road,  
NEW DELHI-110001

Date 12.3.1986

Dear Prime Minister,

I send herewith a copy of the letter dated 20th January, 1986 addressed to you by the Deputy Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Calcutta, requesting you to take steps for acquiring the House at Kabul in Afghanistan where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had stayed for two months, before his onward journey to Europe.

I shall be glad if you kindly inform the steps already taken or proposed to be taken in this direction.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Chitta Basu)

encl: as above.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi,  
Prime Minister of India,  
New Delhi.



(3)

True Copy

D.O. No. 5-HDS/86

The 20th January, 1986

Dear Shri Gandhi,

I have the honour to draw your urgent attention to a matter which has so long eluded our attention. But it is better late than never.

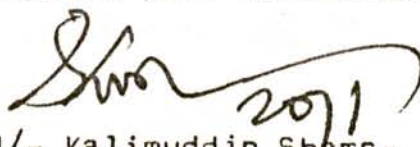
You are aware ~~of~~ that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had left India via Afganistan and had stayed in a small house at Kabul. The house is still in existence. The house is an integral part of the history of India's struggle for emancipation. In the fitness of things, it should be acquired by the Government of India and maintained as a national monument. Moreover, such a step will cement Indo-Afghan brotherhood in honour of Netaji.

In this view of things, I request you to kindly pass orders for acquiring the said house and for its preservation as a national monument.

Netaji's birthday celebrations are drawing near. It will be a highly welcome news if on the day it falls from your lips that the Government is contemplating acquisition of the ~~xxx~~ said house.

I am confident that the matter will receive your immediate attention.

Thanking you,

  
Sd/- Kalimuddin Shams.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi,  
Prime Minister of India.  
New Delhi





PRIME MINISTER

New Delhi  
March 17, 1986

Dear Shri Basu,

I have received your letter with the proposal for acquiring the house where Netaji Bose had stayed for 2 months in Afghanistan.

Yours sincerely,

Shri Chitta Basu, MP  
28, Gurdwara Rakabganj Road  
New Delhi



(2)

2-2015/ASCAP  
17/4.

Deptt of Culture.  
Shastri Bhavan  
New Delhi.

Sub: Letter from Shri Kalimuddin Shams, Dy. Speaker  
Legislative Assembly, West Bengal, regarding  
acquiring of the house at Kabul in which Netaji  
Subhash Chandra Bose stayed, as a national  
monument.

In the PM's office UO No. 1032/E&S-II/86  
dated 31.1.1986 to the Secretary, Deptt of  
Environment, the letter of Shri Kalimuddin Shams  
was referred to for appropriate action. This was  
since referred to the Ministry of Human Resource  
Development.

The House in which Shri Bose stayed in  
Kabul being in a foreign country, the necessary follow-up  
action and negotiations etc can be undertaken only  
by the Ministry of External Affairs, to whom the  
papers are sent for necessary action.

*P. S. Sakuntala*  
P. S. Sakuntala  
Director  
14.4.1986

1735/ASCAP/86  
16/4

✓  
Jt. Secretary, Shri S.K. Lamba, Min. of External Affairs, S. Block  
Deptt of Culture UO No. F-11-1/86 CHG dt. 14.4.86

This has been now received - There was  
a communication recently from PMO to  
our Embassy in Kabul on this subject.  
We should await a reply from the  
Embassy in Kabul. I had spoken to  
Amb. Khastha when he was here last week.  
Sandeep Lamba  
17/4

DSAP 17/4

US/Abt

SOA/1

17.4  
18/4

All file carefully  
18/4

G. Jolly





M.D. KHARE

Dy. 840/86 CHS

15.4.86

अ. स. पत्र सं. ....

Dy. No. 862/86-M

D.O. No. ....

निदेशक (स्मारक)

DIRECTOR (Monuments)

भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

नई दिल्ली-110 011, तारीख.....19

New Delhi-110 011, the... 4 April 1986

Dear Miss Sakuntala,

I am forwarding in original Ministry of Environment and Forests Office Memorandum No.F.23015/7/85-PGG dated the 14th February, 1986 together with its enclosures concerning the acquisition of a house in Kabul, Afganistan for its preservation as a National Monument. As the matter pertains to C.H. Division of the Department of Culture, I would request that further necessary action may please be taken at your end.

*With regards,*

Yours sincerely

*M.D. Khare*

(M.D. Khare)

Miss P.S. Sakuntala,  
Director (CH),  
Department of Culture,  
Shastri Bhavan,  
NEW DELHI.

*pl issue re-note  
below by name to S.S.  
Conced in the M/C office*

*15-4  
S.C. 15/6*



507-86-P-3(1cl)

2/13

7

No.F.23015/7/85-pGg  
Government of India  
Ministry of Environment and Forests  
(Department of Environment, Forests & Wildlife)  
(Environment Wing)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Cont. Cplc not for

Bikaner House,  
Shahjahan Road,  
New Delhi-110 011.

the 14th February, 1986.

Office Memorandum

Subject:- Acquisition of a house in Kabul, Afganistan  
for its preservation as a National Monument.

\*\*\*\*\*

The undersigned is directed to forward a U.O.  
No.1032/E&S II/86, dated 31.1.86 received from Prime  
Minister's Secretariat forwarding a copy of d.o. letter  
No.5/HDS/86 dated the 20th January, 1986 from Sh.Kalimuddin  
Shams, Deputy Speaker, Legislative Assembly, West Bengal;  
on the subject mentioned above, for further necessary  
action.

Encl:- As above.

(HAREY LAL)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Ministry of Human Resources Development,  
(Department of Culture),  
Shasti Bhawan,  
New Delhi-110 001.

M. Section

Returned in original to Dept of  
Culture CH Division for n/a as it pertains  
to them.

M. Chhabra  
14/3

Dept. of Culture

Not for ICR on

The papers perhaps concern ASI.

M. Chhabra  
25/3/86

M. Sec

1/1

862/86 m  
7/3/86

AS I  
SAC  
Can



प्रधान मन्त्री कार्यालय  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

नई दिल्ली-110011  
NEW DELHI-110011

No.

Dated :

// Attached herewith is a copy of a letter dated 20th January, 1986 from Shri Kalimuddin Shams, Deputy **Speaker**, West Bengal Legislative Assembly addressed to PM, for appropriate action.

*Arvind*

(Arvind Pande)  
Joint Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
30.1.1986.

Secretary, D/Environment (Shri T.N. Seshan)  
P.M.'s Office H.O. No. 1032/E+5 II/86  
DE: 31.1.86.

Is this for Culture?

2692/Am/86  
14/2/86, 5286

1356/DS(A)  
17/2/86

pl. discuss.  
JSA 2  
5.2.86

Santrah

DS(A)  
PQG

This may be passed  
on to Secretary, Y.Culture.

8/Phams  
17/2/86





9

DEPUTY SPEAKER  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
WEST BENGAL  
CALCUTTA  
The 20th January, 86.

D.O.No. 5 /HDS/86.

Dear Shri Gandhi,

I have the honour to draw your urgent attention to a matter which has so long eluded our attention. But it is better late than never.

You are aware that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had left India via Afghanistan and had stayed in a small house at Kabul. The house is still in existence. The house is an integral part of the history of India's struggle for emancipation. In the fitness of things, it should be acquired by the Government of India and maintained as a national monument. Moreover, such a step will cement Indo-Afghan brotherhood in honour of of Netaji.

In this view of things, I request you to kindly pass orders for acquiring the said house and for its preservation as a national monument.

Netaji's birthday celebrations are drawing near. It will be a highly welcome news if on the day it falls from your lips that the Government is contemplating acquisition of the said house.

I am confident that the matter will receive your immediate attention.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

*Shams*  
20/1/86  
(Kalimuddin Shams)

Shri Rajiv Gandhi,  
Prime Minister of India,  
New Delhi.





AMBASSADOR

P.M.'s Office U.O. No. *11958*  
28/4/86

3137/OSOR/86  
24/6

1906/JSCAP/86  
29/4

EMBASSY OF INDIA  
KABUL

No.KAB/501/1/86

April 21, 1986.

*My dear Ranvir,*

Please refer to your letter No.30(927)/86-PM dated 7th April 1986 enclosing a copy of letter addressed to Prime Minister by Shri Chitta Basu, MP, regarding the house at Kabul where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had stayed.

2. Netaji stayed for 43 days at a house in the old city of Kabul in early 1941. The house is still there and we have located it. It is owned by an Afghan Hindu called Kishan Chand, who has rented it out and the lesses are presently living in it. It is a three storeyed mud built house and not in very good condition because of its age. Neighbouring houses built around the same date and of the same material have since collapsed.

3. If we decide to acquire the house we will have to send a team of engineers to examine its structure and decide how best to adequately reinforce it so that it continues as a monument to Netaji. This is apart from whatever photographs and mementos go in to the house and the other steps for beautifying it that would be necessary to make it a suitable national monument.

4. I may point out that it is in a very crowded part of the city, inaccessible by car, and approachable through about 300 yards of bylanes which are not very clean. This is not a major problem because in my assessment if we do decide to acquire the house, the Kabul Municipality will extend full cooperation to clean up the approaches so that it is easily accessible.

5. The owner of the house, Kishan Chand, is at present in India. He is expected back in a couple of weeks time and it is only after a discussion with him that I would be able to write further in the matter. Incidentally, he is, according to our information, at E-272, Greater Kailash Part II, New Delhi. One of his sons called Ashok Kumar is also employed in the Afghan Embassy in New Delhi. You might like to get in touch with Kishan Chand or his son directly also.

*Warm regards,*

Yours sincerely,

*(Signature)*

( I.P. Khosla )

Shri R. Sen,  
Officer on Special Duty,  
Prime Minister's Office,  
New Delhi.

Note attached -

*Sudamsi*  
8/5

*8/5*

8986/FS/86  
8/5/86

JSCAP may  
please see for  
comments

*JSAP*

*you have decision  
to be taken is  
about acquisition of  
the house, keeping  
in view its historical  
importance.  
maintaining it in  
a foreign country  
is going the extreme  
but that is  
secondary.*

ES  
EAM



1929-1948



S.No. 227  
R. Sen  
Officer on Special Duty

No. 30 (927) 186-111.  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
NEW DELHI

(13)

No.

7 April 1986

My dear

S.No. 227/10  
I enclose a copy of a self-explanatory letter dated March 12, 1986, addressed to PM by Shri Chitta Basu, MP, and PM's acknowledgement of March, 17, 1986. In order to enable us to take a decision in this matter, I would be grateful if you could send us the comprehensive factual data, together with a brief account of previous correspondence of this matter, if any.

Yours sincerely,

(R. Sen)

Shri I.P. Khosla,  
Ambassador of India,  
Kabul.

Copy, with enclosure, to :

Joint Secretary (a) - MEA.

*[Signature]*  
( R. Sen)  
Officer on Special Duty  
7 April 1986



CHITTA BASU

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(RAJYA SABHA)



सत्यमेव जयते

5-11-82.5  
Phones : 382260  
384576

28, Gurdwara Rakabganj Road,  
NEW DELHI-110001

Date 12.3.1986

Dear Prime Minister,

I send herewith a copy of the letter dated 20th January, 1986 addressed to you by the Deputy Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Calcutta, requesting you to take steps for acquiring the House at Kabul in Afghanistan where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had stayed for two months, before his onward journey to Europe.

I shall be glad if you kindly inform the steps already taken or proposed to be taken in this direction.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Chitta Basu*  
(Chitta Basu)

encl: as above.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi,  
Prime Minister of India,  
New Delhi.



(15)

True Copy

D.O. No. 5-HDS/86

The 20th January, 1986

Dear Shri Gandhi,

I have the honour to draw your urgent attention to a matter which has so long eluded our attention. But it is better late than never.

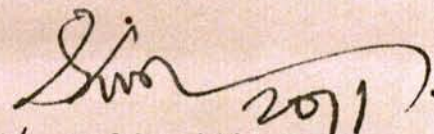
You are aware ~~of~~ that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had left India via Afghanistan and had stayed in a small house at Kabul. The house is still in existence. The house is an integral part of the history of India's struggle for emancipation. In the fitness of things, it should be acquired by the Government of India and maintained as a national monument. Moreover, such a step will cement Indo-Afghan brotherhood in honour of Netaji.

In this view of things, I request you to kindly pass orders for acquiring the said house and for its preservation as a national monument.

Netaji's birthday celebrations are drawing near. It will be a highly welcome news if on the day it falls from your lips that the Government is contemplating acquisition of the ~~xxxx~~ said house.

I am confident that the matter will receive your immediate attention.

Thanking you,

  
Sd/- Kalimuddin Shams.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi,  
Prime Minister of India.  
New Delhi





PRIME MINISTER

New Delhi  
March 17, 1986

Dear Shri Basu,

I have received your letter with the proposal for acquiring the house where Netaji Bose had stayed for 2 months in Afghanistan.

Yours sincerely,

Shri Chitta Basu, MP  
28, Gurdwara Rakabganj Road  
New Delhi



No. Pms 18065 (6) 2691/JSAP/86/1401 EAM/106  
24.6.86

2926/180/86  
10/7

1/7.

12/15  
D-2140/200P  
3/7 JSAP ✓

No. 8986/FS/86  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(FOREIGN SECRETARY'S OFFICE)

....

Subject: House where Subhas Chandra Bose lived in Kabul  
in 1941 -

...

B3076

Reference letter No.KAB/501/1/86 dated April 21, 1986 from  
our Ambassador in Kabul on the above subject.

2. While the proposal made by Shri Kalimuddin Shams in his  
letter dated 20th January 1986 to PM, to acquire the premises, is  
emotionally appealing, it has to be looked at from a practical point  
of view as well. It is not as if the house in Kabul is one where Subhas  
Chandra Bose stayed for any length of time. It was merely a transit  
point. Moreover it is reported to be in very bad shape and I am  
extremely doubtful of the value of purchasing and maintaining the  
building as a monument particularly since few Indian visitors would be  
going there, specially to pay homage to his memory.

1A 3. If we were to acquire houses where our leaders of the past  
have stayed in different parts of the world, there would be no end to  
it. Far better that we may maintain their homes in India with a greater  
possibility of building a consciousness in our youth about the contributions  
of these leaders in past.

*(Signature)*

(A.P. Venkateswaran)  
Foreign Secretary  
10.5.86

EAM

P. S. Varma  
17/6

*(Signature)*

17.6.86

1608/12/86  
SECRETARY TO P.M.  
No. 4968-G  
22/6/86

OSD(PMO)  
JS(AP)

I agree with 'A'. We need  
not take any action now. ASCA)  
may like to see  
ASCA)

16/19/6 ✓

16/23/6  
FS/JS(AP)

Secy to PM

AS (A) OFFICE  
Dy. No. 4050/2/86  
Date 20/6

1227/23/6  
20/6

gnd  
20/6  
PKY

21/6  
DSAP/20/6  
USM/23/6  
OSD/25/6



2900/PMF/88  
29/6/88



7  
S.K. LAMBAH  
JOINT SECRETARY (AP)

No. 2691 / JS (AP)

July 2, 1986.

D-2140/DSIAF  
3/7

Your letter No. KAB/501/1/86 dated April 21, 1986.  
Please do not take any further action regarding the  
acquisition of the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhas  
Chandra Bose had stayed.

Yours sincerely,

C/1/7

(S.K. LAMBAH)

DS/AP)  
del 3/7  
Shri I.P. Khosla,  
Ambassador of India,  
Kabul (Afghanistan).

us/1/86  
4/7

sent  
7/2  
K. J. J.



8  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(AP Division)

3048/SSCAP/88  
3730/Secy (A)/88  
17/6/88  
vib. 910/Moscow  
In the FR placed below, Shri Chitta Basu, MP, has indicated that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had stayed in a house in Kabul in February-March 1941, which is now in a state of disrepair. He has suggested that the Government of India should take over the house and maintain it properly as a monument of historical and national significance. It may be mentioned that this issue had been taken up with PM by Shri Chitta Basu, vide his letter of 12 March 1986 (flag 'B'). The matter had been considered in PMO and it had been decided that we need not take any action (flag-'A'). The rationale of the decision was that if we were to acquire houses where our leaders of the past had stayed in different parts of the world, then there would be no end to it.

2. In the context of the foregoing, it is suggested that we adhere to the decision taken earlier in this matter. As regards a reply to Shri Chitta Basu, perhaps a simple acknowledge<sup>ment</sup> from MOS would be most appropriate.

*Chandra*  
(Satish Chandra)  
JS (AP)  
17-6-88

Secretary (E&ER)

*AB Chandra*  
17/6/88

JS (AP)

A self-explanatory draft reply (DFA) to Shri Chitta Basu, MP's letter, on lines approved at para 2 above, is placed below for approval.

*Chandra*  
(SATISH CHANDRA)  
joint secretary 8ap9  
30.6.1988

MOS (N)

*Katwar*  
1.7.88

5/7  
US (A) on leave.  
5/7

for Tally



30481 JSCAP/19

910

Vil. 1000/mos/EA/88  
10/6

Chitta Basu

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
( RAJYA SABHA )Phone No. 382260  
38457628, Gurudwara Rakabgunj Road,  
New Delhi-110 001.

Dated 14.5.1988

Dear Shri Singh,

As you know, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose reached Kabul on January 27 in 1941, after his great escape from Calcutta on January 16, 1941. He stayed in the House that belongs to Uttan Chand, an old revolutionary at Mohalla Hindu Guzar, Shor Bazar, Kabul, from February 9, 1941 to February 11, 1941 and again from February 15, 1941 to 17 March, 1941. Bhagat Ram Talwar, an old revolutionary who had helped Netaji in his escape from Peshawar to Kabul, had also stayed with Netaji in that house at Kabul. There was a reference of this House and the room in which Netaji had stayed, in the book, "The Talwars of Pathan Land and Subhas Chandra's Great Escape".

I quote the relevant portion :

" The residence of Uttan Chand was in the upper storey of a two-storeyed building in Mohalla Hindu Guzar. The floor was occupied by one Roshanlal, a Hindu from Peshawar. The house consisted of three rooms in addition to the kitchen and the bathroom. The two of us (Netaji and Bhagat Ram Talwar) were given a separate room furnished after the Central-Asian fashion. The floor was covered with durries and carpets. There was a sandli (a sort of small wooden table under which there is an angithi which keeps the huge quilts in the room warm) in the middle of the room and three thick and low mattresses with cushions around the sandli which were used for sitting and also as beds at night. Netaji and I used two of these mattresses while the third would be taken by others coming into the room."

(page 101)

I am told that the said house is not being maintained properly and ~~being~~ it may be dilapidated soon. For every Indian patriot, the House is a ~~xxx~~ sacred place. I strongly feel that the Government of India should take necessary action, to take over the house and maintain it properly as a monument of historical and national significance.

I send herewith 5 photographs of the said house, which have been presented to me by an Indian journalist who recently visited the place.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Chitta Basu  
(Chitta Basu)

encl: as above.

Shri Natwar Singh,  
Minister for External Affairs,  
Government of India, New Delhi.

8.006 (File 'A') may be seen.  
USCAP/19  
14/6  
15/6

There are some Shri Natwar Singh,  
Minister for External Affairs,  
Government of India, New Delhi.  
on this issue. Be put up, urgently.

14/6  
15/6



June 30, 1988.

Dear Chitta Basuji,

I have received your letter of 14th May, 1988 and noted the proposal for acquiring the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had stayed for a few weeks in February/March 1941.

With good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

K. Natwar Singh

(K. Natwar-Singh)

Shri Chitta Basu, MP  
28, Gurudwara Rakabganj Road,  
New Delhi-110 001.



MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(AP Division)

3048/SS(NP)/88  
373/Secy(2)/88  
17/6/88

In the FR placed below, Shri Chitta Basu, MP, has indicated that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had stayed in a house in Kabul in February-March 1941, which is now in a state of disrepair. He has suggested that the Government of India should take over the house and maintain it properly as a monument of historical and national significance. It may be mentioned that this issue had been taken up with PM by Shri Chitta Basu, vide his letter of 12 March 1986 (flag 'B'). The matter had been considered in PMO and it had been decided that we need not take any action (flag-'A'). The rationale of the decision was that if we were to acquire houses where our leaders of the past had stayed in different parts of the world, then there would be no end to it.

2. In the context of the foregoing, it is suggested that we adhere to the decision taken earlier in this matter. As regards a reply to Shri Chitta Basu, perhaps a simple acknowledgement<sup>ment</sup> from MOS would be most appropriate.

*Chandra*  
(Satish Chandra)  
JS (AP)  
17-6-88

Secretary (E&ER)

*AB Chandra*  
17/6/88

JS (AP)

A self-explanatory draft reply (DFA) to Shri Chitta Basu, MP's letter, on lines approved at para 2 above, is placed below for approval.

(SATISH CHANDRA)  
Joint Secretary 8ap9  
30.6.1988

MOS (N)

*A*  
*Am 1/2*  
*JS (AP) on leave*  
*6/7*  
*Sh. Dolly*



DRAFT

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI

June , 1988

I have received your letter of 14th May, 1988  
and noted the proposal for acquiring the house in Kabul  
where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had stayed for a few weeks  
in February/March 1941.

(K.NATWAR-SINGH)

Shri Chitta Basu  
Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha)  
28, Gurudwara Rakabganj Road  
New Delhi - 110001



(12)  
Lok Sabha Special Member

DRAFT

J/II/125/30/88

I am writing with reference to the Special Mention made by you in the Lok Sabha on the 3rd September 1988 regarding the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had spent some time in 1941.

2. While we fully appreciate the sentiments behind your suggestion, we do not think it will be worthwhile to acquire the house in honour of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. It was not a house in which he stayed permanently: it was only a transit point; and it is doubtful whether many of our nationals will visit Afghanistan in order to see the house, even if we buy and maintain it as a national monument. Further, if we were to acquire houses where our leaders of the past had stayed in different parts of the world, there would be no end to it and, being outside India, they would not really inspire the younger generation. It is best that our national monuments are generally in India itself so that they serve as examples to our people.

With kind regards,

( K. Natwar Singh )

Shri Jagannath Patnaik,  
Member of Parliament,  
C/o Lok Sabha Secretariat,  
New Delhi.





phones :  
(O) 3017839  
(R) 697040

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय  
नई दिल्ली 110 011  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
NEW DELHI 110 011

No. LS/22/46-101/88

dt. 12.12.88

7054/JS(AP)/88  
12/12

2/12/88

Forwarded

With the compliments of

**MEERA SHANKAR**

Director

for n.a.

JS (AP), MEA

Pl. ask with Mr.

12/12

JS (AP)

14/12





PRIME MINISTER

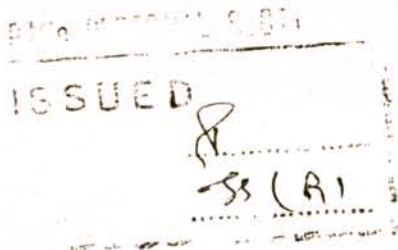
New Delhi  
December 2, 1988

Dear Shri Basu,

I have your letter of 30th September. The Ministry of External Affairs are being asked to look into this.

Yours sincerely,

Shri Chitta Basu, MP  
28, Gurdwara Rakabgunj Road  
New Delhi-110001





Chitta Basu  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(RAJYA SABHA)



Phone No. 382260

384576

28, Gurdwara Rakabgunj Road,  
New Delhi-1.

30 September 1988.

Dear Prime Minister,

As you know, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose reached Kabul on January 27 in 1941, after his great escape from Calcutta on January 16, 1941. He stayed in the House that belongs to Uttam Chand, an old revolutionary at Mohalla Hindu Guzar, Shor Bazar, Kabul, from February 9, 1941 to February 11, 1941 and again from February 15, 1941 to 17 March, 1941. Bhagat Ram Talwar, an old revolutionary who had helped Netaji in his escape from Peshawar to Kabul, had also stayed with Netaji in that house at Kabul. There was a reference of this House and the room in which Netaji had stayed, in the book, "The Talwars of Pathan Land and Subhas Chandra's Great Escape."

I quote the relevant portion :

" The residence of Uttam Chand was in the upper storey of a two-storeyed building in Mohalla Hindu Guzar. The floor was occupied by one Roshanlal, a Hindu from Peshawar. The house consisted of three rooms in addition to the kitchen and the bath room. The two of us (Netaji and Bhagat Ram Talwar) were given a separate room furnished after the Central-Asian fashion. The floor was covered with durries and carpets. There was a sandli (a sort of small wooden table under which there is an angithi which keeps the huge quilts in the room warm) in the middle of the room and three thick and low mattresses with cushions around the sandli which were used for sitting and also as beds at night. Netaji and I used two of these mattresses while the third would be taken by others coming into the room."

(page 101)

I am told that the said house is not being maintained properly and ~~being~~ it may be dilapidated soon. For every Indian patriot, the House is a sacred place. I strongly feel that the Government of India should take necessary action, to take over the house and maintain it properly as a monument of historical and national significance.

I took up the matter with Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State, External Affairs, who was kind enough to send me a letter of acknowledgement No. VIP-910/MOS(N)/88 dt. 30 June, 1988. Since then, I have not received any information from the Ministry of External Affairs.

I shall be glad if you kindly take interest in the matter and take appropriate action.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,  
*Chitta Basu*  
(Chitta Basu)

Shri Rajiv Gandhi,  
Prime Minister,  
India.

1/95UR/188  
15/11  
6987101CMS  
15/11



(M)

Immediate

Ministry of External Affairs  
(AP DIVISION)

Reference FR regarding acquisition by the Government of India of the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had spent sometime in 1941.

2. This matter has been considered in the Ministry earlier. We have been not in favour of acquisition of this House. The matter was also considered in PMO in June 1986. The then OSD, PMO had agreed with the then Foreign Secretary's suggestion to the effect that if we were to acquire houses where our leaders of the past had stayed in different parts of the world there would be no end to it. MOS(N), replying to a Special Mention by Shri Jagannath Patnaik in Lok Sabha on 3rd September 1988 had reiterated the same view. We may advise PMO that we are not in favour of the acquisition of this house for the reasons stated by the then Foreign Secretary in June 1986 and with which the then OSD PMO had concurred.

( Arvind Gupta )  
Deputy Secretary(Afg/Kash)  
15.3.1989

Or

JS(AP) Action as proposed. Pl also send to PMO copies of our noting in this matter & MOS(N)'s letter referred to above.

Chandra  
12/3/89

DS(Afg)

1586 DS(Afg) 29  
It is regretted that  
PMO's earlier  
letter was  
not replied to,  
mainly due to  
oversight.

JS 007



(15)

Most Immediate

Ministry of External Affairs  
(AP DIVISION)

Confidential

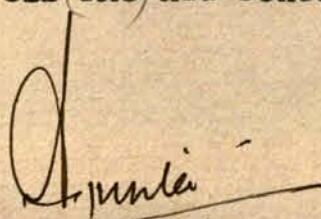
Reference FR regarding acquisition by the Government of India of the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had spent sometime in 1941.

2. This matter has been considered in the Ministry earlier. We have been not in favour of acquisition of this House. The matter was also considered in PMO in June 1986. The then OSD, PMO had agreed with the then Foreign Secretary's suggestion to the effect that if we were to acquire houses where our leaders of the past had stayed in different parts of the world there would be no end to it. MOS(N), replying to a Special Mention by Shri Jagannath Patnaik in Lok Sabha on 3rd September 1988 had reiterated the same view. We may advise PMO that we are not in favour of the acquisition of this house for the reasons stated by the then Foreign Secretary in June 1986 and with which the then OSD (PMO) had concurred.

1536/JSAP/89  
16/3

F/A

F/B



( Arvind Gupta )  
Deputy Secretary (Afg/Kash)  
15.3.1989

JS(AP)



(16)  
No. J/II/551/13/86  
Ministry of External Affairs  
(AP Division)

Reference FR.

2. The suggestion that Government of India should take over and maintain the house in Kabul in which Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had stayed in February 1941 has been considered in the Ministry from time to time. In this connection I would like to draw your attention to the remarks of the then OSD, PMO on a noting by the then Foreign Secretary on 10.5.1986 on the same subject (copy enclosed). I also enclose herewith a copy of a letter from MOS(N) to Shri Jagannath Patnaik written on the same subject. This Ministry has been of the view that if we were to acquire houses where our leaders of the past had stayed in different parts of the world, there would be no end to it. This continues to be our view on this matter.

(Arvind Gupta)  
Deputy Secretary (Afg/Kash)  
20.3.1989

DIRECTOR, PMO  
(Smt. Meera Shankar)

Smb  
F/A

S.No. 12

For info

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DS (AP)

Don

Govt

Shri S.



2375/JS(AD)89  
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26/4

JS(AD)

215 MOST IMMEDIATE  
PARLIAMENT ASSURANCE

Ministry of External Affairs  
(Coordination Division)

No.AA/125/14/89

13th April, 1989

Subject:-Assurance on Lok Sabha Unstarred  
Question No.3048 dated 16.3.89  
regarding raising of Memorials  
of Freedom Fighters abroad.

The above-mentioned Question and the Assurance  
given thereon are reproduced below:-

"Prof. Narain Chand Parashar:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be  
pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a  
request for raising suitable memorials to the  
freedom fighters and to commemorate important  
events in the freedom struggle in foreign countries;

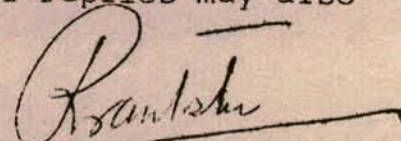
(b) if so, the decision taken by Government  
thereon and the names of the freedom fighters/events  
selected for this purpose alongwith the action taken  
so far to build these memorials; and

(c) if no decision has been taken so far the  
likely date by which a decision would be taken?"

Assurance given

(a), (b) and (c): A number of such requests have  
been received both in the Ministry and in Indian Missions  
abroad; the Indian Missions abroad vet such requests for  
their suitability before forwarding them to the Ministry.  
Hence full details are being collected from them and  
statement will be laid on the Table of the House.

2. It is requested that the requisite information may  
please be supplied latest by April 28, 1989, so that the  
Assurance may be fulfilled in time. Nil replies may also  
please be sent.



(P.L. Santoshi)  
Joint Secretary(Coord.)

To

1. All Heads of Mission/Post abroad.
2. All Heads of Territorial Division in the Ministry of  
External Affairs.
3. Director General, ICCR, New Delhi.
4. Shri Arun Kshetrapal, Joint Secretary, Implementation  
Committee for Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary Celebrations,  
Panchsheel Bhavan, Khel Gaon Marg, New Delhi.

551/13/86

Pl. send  
facts  
21/4

DS(Pak)  
DS(Afr)  
mgmt

Pl. app with  
Hs about S.C. bar

Sec  
S. J.  
shri S.



(18)

MOST IMMEDIATE  
PARLIAMENT ASSURANCE

No. JII/55/13/86  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(AP DIVISION)

Subject : Assurance on Lok Sabha Unstarred Question  
No.3048 dated 16.3.89 regarding raising  
Memorials of Freedom Fighters abroad.

.....

Reference Coordination Division's Note  
No.AA/125/14/89 of 13th April, 1989 on the above  
subject. As regards Afghanistan the required  
information is as follows:

From time to time some MPs and other  
prominent figures have sent letters to the Prime  
Minister and to this Ministry proposing acquisition  
of the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose  
had stayed for a few weeks in February/March 1941  
and maintain it as a monument of historical and  
national significance. It had been decided that it  
would not be worthwhile to acquire this house as  
this was not a house in which Netaji stayed permanently  
and moreover it is doubtful whether many of our  
nationals will visit Afghanistan in order to see  
the House even if the government bought it and  
maintained it as a national monument.

( Arvind Gupta )  
Deputy Secretary(Afg/Kash)  
27.4.1989

JS(COORD)

For info

Ch

27/4

27/4

29 April

for

for

for

for





S.K. Mathur,  
Minister (P).

EMBASSY OF INDIA  
KABUL

No.KAB/M(P)/89

1177/Aff/89  
19/5

May 15, 1989

My dear Gupta,

During my absence on courier duty in Delhi, our Counsellor S.C. Mehra was informed by the Acting Director of the First Political Department of the Afghan Foreign Office that the Afghan authorities are considering taking over a private house located in the Capital, where Netaji Subash Chander Bose had stayed for about two weeks some time in 1940s during his visit to Kabul. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs here, on instructions of the President's office, is willing to consider preserving this building as a place of historical importance especially in view of the close and friendly ties existing between the people of the two countries. The building is presently under the occupation of an Afghan national of Indian origin. The Ministry has sought our reaction on whether our Government would be willing to contribute financially towards the expenses of renovation and restoration of the building.

We would be grateful if you could kindly have this matter examined at your end and intimate, in due course, reaction of our concerned authorities. In case the proposal of the Government of Afghanistan is acceptable in principle, details of the financial aspects of our contribution can be worked out later.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(S.K. Mathur)

We may ask our

Shri Arvind Gupta,  
Deputy Secretary (Afg.),  
Ministry of External Affairs,  
NEW DELHI.

find out and

how much would contribution would we have to make for the renovation & restoration of the building.

23/5

Yes let our Mission get as much detail on this urgently - even rough figures would be useful  
Chandra  
24/5  
DS(Aff)



Arvind Gupta  
Deputy Secretary (Afg/Kash)

20

No. J/II/551/17/86

25th May, 1989

My dear

Kindly refer to your letter NO.KAB/M(P)/89 of May 15, 1989 regarding the house in Kabul in which Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had stayed. Before we examine your proposal, it would be useful for us to have detailed information regarding the financial contribution that the Government of India would be expected to make towards the restoration and renovation of the house. Even rough estimates in this regard would be appreciated.

2. (For your background I may mention here that public figures have been writing from time to time that Government of India should take possession of this house and convert it into a national memorial). This is strictly for your own information.

Yours sincerely,

( Arvind Gupta )

Shri S.K. Mathur  
Minister  
Embassy of India  
KABUL

Issued  
26/5/89



प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

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28/3

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NEW DELHI-110011

डा. सं.

Dy. No.

1631

दिनांक

22/3

Dated.....

जे. एस. (आईपीए)/1990

JS (IPA)/1990

(21)

Please find enclosed a copy of the letter dated 1.3.90 addressed to the Prime Minister by Shri Chitta Basu, General Secretary, All India Forward Block, New Delhi.

It is requested that comments on the item 5 may kindly be sent to this office.

Shanker

(Meera Shanker)  
Director

Jt. Secretary. (I.P.A.) M.E.A.

PMO. UO. No. 580/53/C/3/90-ES2

Dated 21.3.90.

23/3

26/3



(22)

Phone : 3782260

# ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC

28, Gurudwara Rakabganj Road, New Delhi-110001

REF NO.....

DATE 1.3.1990

Dear Prime Minister,

We welcome the reported decision of the Government to rename the Calcutta Air Port as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Air Port.

The countrymen have rejoiced over the decision. This is first significant step in the direction of according national honour to Netaji. More steps need to be taken to show proper honour and respect to this great hero of our freedom movement.

We suggest the following amongst others,

- (1) to declare 23rd January, the birthday of Netaji as a national holiday.
- (2) to set up National Museums at Mairang (Manipur) where the INA hoisted the flag of the provisional Azad Hind Government and set up its first Headquarters on the Indian soil and at the ancestral house of Netaji, at Cuttack, Orissa.
- (3) to rebuild the INA Memorial at Singapur, destroyed by Mr. Mount Batten, the former British Army Chief.
- (4) to rename Andamans and Nicobar Islands as Shaheed and Swaraj Dweep.
- (5) to purchase the house at Kabul, where Netaji stayed for some time on his way to Europe and set up a suitable Memorial there.

We are delighted to learn from Prof. Nirmal Bose, Minister of Food and Supplies, Government of West Bengal, and a Member of the Central Secretariat of our Party, that you expressed your kind desire to have discussion with us on the above issues, during your last Calcutta visit.



Phone : 3782260

# ALL INDIA FORWARD BLOC

28, Gurudwara Rakabganj Road, New Delhi-110001

REF NO.....

DATE .....19

- 2 -

A delegation on behalf of Party would be happy to meet you to discuss these issues, at your convenience.

As our Central Committee meets here from March 2 to March 5, 1990, it would be most convenient for us to meet you at any time during these days.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Chitta Basu*  
(Chitta Basu)  
General Secretary

Shri V.P. Singh,  
Prime Minister,  
Government of India,  
New Delhi.





23  
Mrs. Vijay Thakur Singh,  
Under Secretary (Afg)

विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली-11  
~~SECRET~~  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

D.O. No. J/II/551/13/86

NEW DELHI-11  
the 27th March, 1990

Dear Shri Tarei,

S.A.M/1  
Kindly refer to Shri S.K. Mathur, Counsellor(Pol)'s letter No. KAB/M(P)/89 dated 15th May, 1989 addressed to Shri Arvind Gupta, Deputy Secretary(Afghanistan) regarding Afghan Government's willingness to consider preserving the private house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chander Bose had stayed in 1941 as a place of historical importance especially in view of the close and friendly ties existing between the people of the two countries. The Ministry vide its letter of even number dated 25th May, 1989 requested for detailed information regarding the financial contribution that the Government of India would be expected to make towards the restoration and renovation of the house.

General Secretary of All India Forward Bloc, Shri Chitta Basu, M.P. has written to Prime Minister regarding the house in Kabul where Netaji stayed(copy enclosed).

Shall be grateful, if details of expenditure to be incurred by the Government of India is sent to us at the earliest possible so that matter can be examined at our end.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(VIJAY THAKUR SINGH)

Shri B. B. Tarei,  
Counsellor(Pol),  
Embassy of India,  
KABUL

Issued  
28/3/90



24

SECRET

J/II/551/13/86  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
IPA DIVISION

1. Please Refer to your U.O. note No 580/53/C/3/90-ES2 dated 21st March, 1990 regarding acquisition by the Government of India of the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chander Bose spent sometime in 1941.

2. This matter has been considered in the Ministry earlier. We have not been in favour of acquisition of this house. The matter was also considered in PMO in June 1986. The then OSD, PMO had agreed with the then Foreign Secretary's suggestion to the effect that if we were to acquire houses where our leaders of the past had stayed in different parts of the world there would be no end to it (copy enclosed). MOS(N), replying to a Special Mention by Shri Jagannath Patnaik in Lok Sabha on 3rd September 1988 had reiterated the same view and also stated "It was not a house in which Netaji stayed permanently; it was only a transit point; and it is doubtful whether many of our nationals will visit Afghanistan in order to see the house even if we buy and maintain it as a national monument.... It is best that our national monuments are generally in India itself so that they serve as examples to our people (copy enclosed).

3. In May, 1989 the First Political Department of the Afghan Foreign Office contacted the Indian Embassy, Kabul and informed that the Afghan authorities on instructions of President's Office was willing to consider preserving the private house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chander Bose had stayed in 1941 as a place of historical importance especially in view of the close and friendly ties existing between the people of the two countries. The Afghan authorities sought our reaction on whether Government of India would be willing to contribute financially towards the expenses of renovation and restoration of the house. Detailed information regarding the financial contribution that the Government of India would be expected to make towards the restoration and renovation of the house is still to be furnished by the Afghan Government. The matter can be further examined only after that. No decision has been taken on the Afghan proposal so far.

4. Issues with the approval of JS(IPA).

(MRS. VIJAY THAKUR SINGH)  
UNDER SECRETARY (AFG)  
27.3.1990

MRS. MEERA SHANKAR  
Dir (Pmo).





AMBASSADOR

S E C R E T

EMBASSY OF INDIA  
KABUL

No.KAB/501/1/86

April 12, 1990

Please refer to your letter No.J/II/551/13/86 of March 27 to Shri Tarei regarding the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chander Bose had stayed in 1941.

2. We have located the house. It is in the old part of the city of Kabul in an area earmarked for demolition. The house belongs to Mr. Kishan Chand Lund, an Afghan of Indian origin. He is himself reported to be in India at the moment. The house is in a dilapidated condition and its surroundings are not congenial.

3. In a meeting with the Mayor of Kabul on March 7, I brought up the question of this house, drew his attention to its importance to us and explored the possibility of a suitable memorial to Netaji being set up there. The Mayor promised to have the matter looked into. I have also addressed a formal communication to him on the subject.

4. Apart from the above, I have broached the subject informally with a senior aide to President Najibullah. He reacted positively, said all official assistance would be available but the expenses would need to be incurred by the Government of India.

5. The Mayor of Kabul, after discussions with city officials, would indicate if the house can be saved from demolition. If this in fact can be done, then we would need to assess the structural viability of the premises and make an estimate of the expenditure likely to be involved in restoring it. Thereafter, it could perhaps be converted into a memorial museum or library. If, however, the house cannot be saved either on account of its condition or due to the city authorities' insistence on demolishing it, then the best course may be to erect a memorial plaque on the site.

6. I will keep you informed of further developments.

Yours sincerely,

( M. H. Ansari )

Smt. Vijay Thakur Singh  
Under Secretary(Afg)  
Miny. of External Affairs  
New Delhi

508/18/90  
18/4/90

wee pps. pl  
19/4  
J 19/4

25

1023

in his high



(26)

Secret

Ministry of External Affairs  
IPA Division

.....

Reference Director(PMO)'s U.O. No. 580/  
53/C/S/90 - ES 2 dated 21.3.1990 regarding  
acquisition by Government of India of the house  
in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chander Bose had  
stayed in Kabul in 1941.

Enclosed herewith is a copy of reply  
received from our mission in Kabul which is self-  
explanatory.

(Mrs. Vijay Bhakar Singh)  
Under Secretary(Afghanistan)

Smt. Meera Shankar, Dir(PMO), PM's Office  
MEA U.O. No. J/II/551/13/86 dated 10th May, 1990.

Issued  
14/5/90





SECRET

27

12/80/AFG/1/20  
19/1/86

भारत का राजदूत  
काबुल  
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA  
KABUL

No.KAB/501/1/86

May 7, 1990

Shy Sen Vijay.

SM 25

Please refer to my letter of even number dated April 12, 1990 regarding the suggestion that the house in which Netaji Subhash Chander Bose stayed in Kabul in 1941 be converted into a memorial.

2. I have now received a response from the Mayor of Kabul. His officials have carried out the necessary investigations and the position is as follows:-

- a) The house is a 4-storeyed one on a plot of land measuring approximately 200 sq. mtrs;
- b) It is due for demolition under a Municipality scheme in which two to three storeyed buildings would be constructed in the area; and
- c) The Municipality is agreeable to considering favourably any suggestions we may have regarding the repair/renovation of the present house or its replacement by a suitable memorial.

3. The assumption underlying (c) above is that all expenditure on this account would be borne by us. In view of this, I would be grateful if you could now let us know our decision in the matter. I am, in the meantime, requesting our First Secretary(Projects) to visit the site and give his recommendations.

him - her with

Yours sincerely,

( M.H. Ansari )

Smt. Vijay Thakur Singh  
Under Secretary(Afg)  
Ministry of External Affairs, NEW DELHI.

ke up up immediately  
into file  
14/5

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M



MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
IPA DIVISION

SUBJECT: The House of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose in  
Kabul.

5.10.86 / The question was examined in June 1986. We have not been in favour of acquisition of this house. The then OSD, PMO had agreed with the then Foreign Secretary's suggestion to the effect that if we were to acquire houses where our leaders of the past had stayed in different parts of the world there would be no end to it. MOS(N), replying to a Special Mention by Shri Jagannathan Patnaik in Lok Sabha on 3rd September, 1988 had reiterated the same view and also stated, "It was not a house in which Netaji stayed permanently. It was only a transit point and it is doubtful whether many of our nationals will visit Afghanistan in order to see the house even if we buy and maintain it as a national monument... It is best that our national monuments are generally in India itself so that they serve as examples to our people".

2. The question was reopened in May, 1989 when Afghan side indicated that they are willing to consider preserving the private house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chander Bose had stayed in 1941 as a place of historical importance. The Afghan authorities sought our reaction on whether Government of India would be willing to contribute financially towards the expenses of renovation and restoration of the house.

3. - No decision has been taken on the Afghan proposal as financial implications were not clear. Embassy of India was to forward cost estimates.

4. Our Ambassador in Kabul now informs that the area in which the house is located is earmarked for demolition. The house itself is in a dilapidated condition. He took up the matter of setting a memorial there with the Mayor of Kabul and a senior aide of President Najibullah on May 7, 1990. The Municipal authorities of Afghanistan are willing to consider proposal and are ready to provide official assistance but indicated that the expenses would need to be incurred by the Government of India. Ambassador has indicated that FS(Project) would visit the site and give recommendations.

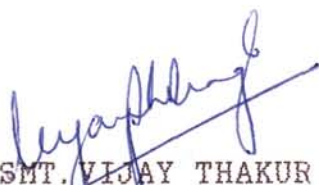
5. There is no compelling need to reverse the decision taken in June, 1986. Financial implications would depend on the nature of memorial to be erected. The memorial however, modest would entail substantial costs given the present situation in Afghanistan with problems regarding availability of material, lack of transport facilities and skilled personnel as well as the problems of exchange rate.



6. However, we could still request for financial implications and feasibility from our Embassy in Kabul before final decision is taken.


7. We may like to keep PMO informed in view of request received by PM from Chitta Basu M.P. on purchase of the House in Kabul

For approval.

  
(SMT. VIJAY THAKUR SINGH)  
UNDER SECRETARY (AFG/KASH)  
17.5.1990

JS (IPAS)  
netaji

I agree with recommendations in paras 5+6.  
2. Please keep PMO informed

  
20/5

NS (IPAS)





सत्यमेव जयते

Mrs. Vijay Thakur Singh,  
Under Secretary(Afghanistan)

विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली-११  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
NEW DELHI-11

D.O. No. J/II/551/13/86

the 24th May, 90

My dear Ambassador,

Reference correspondence resting with your letter No. KAB/501/1/86 dated 7.5.90 regarding acquisition of house of Netaji Subhash Chander Bose in Kabul.

The question of acquisition was examined in detail in June, 86. The Government was then not in favour of acquisition of the house on the ground that if we were to acquire houses where our leaders of the past stayed in different parts of the world, there would be no end to it.

The issue was reopened in May, 1989.

Your discussions with Afghan authorities reveal that area where house is located has been earmarked for demolition and the house itself is dilapidated. However, given the fact that Afghans are willing to consider Indian proposal, we may get financial estimates and feasibility of acquiring the house and converting it into a memorial. The alternate as suggested in your letter of 12th April to the effect that if the house cannot be saved, a memorial plaque could be erected, could also be examined from viewpoint of practicability and financial implications.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Vijay Thakur Singh)

Shri M.H. Ansari,  
Ambassador of India,  
Kabul

Used  
24/5



# Mainstream

CURRENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY

F-24, Bhagat Singh Market, New Delhi-110001

Telephone : 344772 and 323520

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Editor

NIKHIL CHAKRAVARTY

30

May 18, 1990

Mr. I.K. Gujral  
Honourable Minister for External Affairs  
New Delhi

Respected Gujral Sahib,

Apropos my conversation with you at the dinner for the Foreign Correspondents Association on May 15, I am enclosing herewith a photo-copy of the article I wrote in the Republic Day Special issue of Mainstream (January 28, 1989) on the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhas Bose took shelter with Bhagat Ram Talwar in February 1941 after his daring escape from Calcutta in January 1941 (when he sought to contact both Germany and the USSR before finally leaving for Berlin via Moscow).

As I told you, that house could be turned into a memorial as it represents a symbol of Indo-Afghan friendship (another such symbol - the building that housed Raja Mahendra Pratap's Provisional Revolutionary Government of India in Kabul - remains untaceable, having perished on account of the march of time). But first the task is to see that it does not suffer demolition since buildings of old Kabul are planned to be destroyed for construction of new ones.

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24/5

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VK  
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NIKHIL CHAKRAVARTTY

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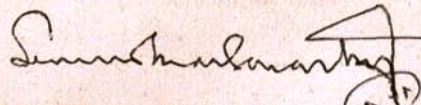
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I am prepared to meet you at your convenience for a further discussion on the issue (although I do not want to encroach on your valuable time).

Hope this finds both Sheilaji and you in the best of health.

With best regards

Yours sincerely



(Sumit Chakravartty)  
Special Correspondent  
Mainstream

Copy to: Mr. M.K. Bhadra Kumar  
Director, Iran-Afghanistan Division,  
Ministry of External Affairs, N.Delhi.



## Where Time Stands Still

SUMIT CHAKRAVARTTY

January 23 was Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's ninetysecond birth anniversary. —Editor

IF you visit Mohalla Hindu Guzar of Shor Bazar in old Kabul you will get the unmistakable feeling that the clock of time has not moved an inch since the early forties. In a fast changing world that indeed is unique. Modernity has failed to make any dent there. The same dingy lanes, the same uneven muddy path, the same houses made of mud, clay and wood, as it was in 1941.

True, I was not born in 1941 having arrived in this world four years later. But the old residents of that area would vouch that the surroundings have not changed since then.

Why the focus on the year 1941? Because it was in that year that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, that dauntless crusader for India's freedom, had spent more than a month at the residence of one Uttam Chand in Mohalla Hindu Guzar on his way to Europe after his legendary escape from Calcutta.

Netaji had escaped from Calcutta on January 16, 1941. He arrived in Kabul on January 27 and spent slightly less than two months there incognito upto March 18 while seeking to establish contacts with Moscow or Berlin, and making preparations to reach Germany. That was the time when he spent over one month enjoying the hospitality of freedom fighter Uttam Chand Malhotra (from February 9 to 11 and from February 15 to March 17) at the latter's double-storeyed residence.

Fortyeight years have elapsed since then, years of expectation and blighted hopes, a period that saw a sea-change in the political landscape of both India and Afghanistan, a time-span that found a deepening of the controversy surrounding Netaji's demise. But that building in Hindu Guzar remains unchanged even if it has switched hands. So is the room on the second floor where Netaji had spent so many anxious days and nights as the guest of Uttam Chand.

Yes, that building is a bridge between India and Afghanistan cementing further the close friendship between our two countries and peoples. That can also be said of the building which housed Raja Mahendra Pratap's provisional revolutionary government in Kabul. However, the latter building remains untraceable till today perhaps having perished as an inevitable consequence of the inexorable march of time.

Almost a year ago, in April 1988, we — a few Indian visitors to Kabul — made a trip to that house with I.P. Khosla, the affable, friendly and highly accessible Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, and his artist wife Gauri Khosla. It was a kind of pilgrimage for us. The significance of the house in the history of our freedom struggle cannot be belittled.

The Ambassador felt that prompt measures ought to be taken to help preserve the building in Mohalla Hindu Guzar. The urgency of the matter is heightened because steps are already afoot to implement

a plan envisaging demolition of most of the buildings in old Kabul and subsequent erection of new ones.

Khosla thought a part of the building could be taken over and a school symbolising Indo-Afghan friendship run there. It could also have a library named after Netaji so as to perpetuate his memory in view of the privation and hardship that he silently underwent in that house while keeping alive the fire of patriotism in his heart after one of the most daring escapes of this century.

During his voyage to Kabul, from Peshawar and his stay in the Afghan capital, Netaji had a constant and loyal companion and guide in that tireless Pathan communist revolutionary Bhagat Ram Talwar whose contribution in ensuring the success of Netaji's escape was truly immense and immeasurable. Netaji used to call him by his code name Rahmat Khan. One of his elder brothers Hari Kishan was executed like Bhagat Singh in 1930 on account of active participation in armed struggle against the British Raj. And his another elder brother Ram Kishan, leader of formerly the Kirti Party and thereafter the Communist Party, was drowned in the Amu Daria river during a bid to cross it while engaged in preparations for Netaji's escape.

Bhagat Ram Talwar's book — *The Talwars of Pathan Land and Subhash Chandra's Great Escape* (published in June 1976) — is highly absorbing as it details one of the most vital parts of Netaji's escape. In his foreword to the book, the late Chinmohan Sehanavis, writer and historian, noted: "... the book gives out for the first time an authentic and almost hourly account of the final lap of Subhash Chandra Bose's thrilling escape in January 1941 from India, across the tribal area, to Afghanistan and his extremely hazardous stay there for almost two months before he finally left for Berlin via Moscow. The first account of the escape had, of course, appeared in February or March 1946 in a series of articles by Uttam Chand in *The Hindustan Times*. The latter was, for some time, Subhash Chandra's host at Kabul, whose help Bhagat Ram was forced to seek under precarious circumstances."

The book vividly describes the residence of Uttam Chand. One was struck by the fact that it (including the room allotted to Netaji) retained almost the same appearance as when Netaji had first stepped into it.

"The residence of Uttam Chand," Bhagat Ram Talwar wrote, "was in the upper storey of a two-storeyed building in Mohalla Hindu Guzar. The floor was occupied by one Roshan Lal, a Hindu from Peshawar. The house consisted of three room in addition to the kitchen and the bath-room. The two of us were given a separate room furnished after the Central Asian fashion. The floor was

(Contd. on page 70)



## Sumit : Where Time Stands Still

(Contd. from page 67)

covered with durries and carpets. There was a *sandli* (a sort of small wooden table under which there is an *angithi* which keeps the huge quilts in the room warm) in the middle of the room and thick and low mattresses with cushions around the *sandli* which were used for sitting and also as beds at night. Netaji and I used two of these mattresses while the third would be taken by others coming into our room."

From the roof of the building one can see the magnificent fort of Bala Hissar and beyond it the snow capped mountain peaks. One gets a view of Kabul's sky-line as well. Perhaps it was same as the one Netaji had seen fortyeight years ago, at least in that part of Kabul city covering Shor Bazar.

The war in Afghanistan is about to take a new turn — for the better or the worse. Would the Geneva accords usher in genuine peace and stability? That question is now assuming prime importance. At this moment India's active role in improving the situation in Afghanistan acquires special importance. Against such a backdrop is it not essential for the Government of India to take appropriate measures and get that building in Mohalla Hindu Guzar, once hallowed by Netaji's presence and stay, converted into a memorial in honour of Netaji, that

stalwart of our national movement?

Let us not forget that house — a mute witness to a remarkable part of our history — where the clock of time has failed to move for years together. □

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MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
INDIA

S-2359/EAMF

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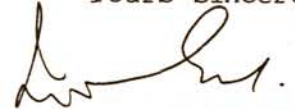
30th May, 1990.

Hyder Sumit

I have received your letter dated  
18th May, 1990. I am having the matter  
looked into.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



(I.K. GUJRAL)

Shri Sumit Chakravartty,  
Mainstream Weekly,  
F-24, Bhagat Singh Market,  
NEW DELHI-110001.



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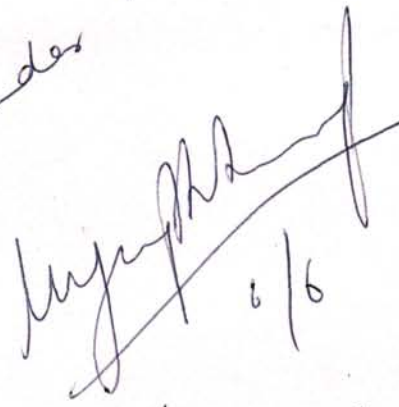
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# SUMIT CHAKRAVARTY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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SANGBAD DAILY, 36 PURANA PALTAN, DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH

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RESIDENCE : A-16 GULMOHAR PARK, NEW DELHI-110049



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NIKHIL CHAKRAVARTY

May 18, 1990

Mr. I.K. Gujral  
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New Delhi

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*An.*  
*Pl. Chak*  
*Ly.*  
*JSC (PA)*

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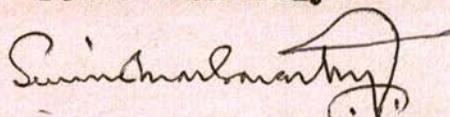
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(Sumit Chakravartty)  
Special Correspondent  
Mainstream

Copy to: Mr. M.K. Bhadra Kumar  
Director, Iran-Afghanistan Division,  
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(Contd. on page 70)



## Sumit : Where Time Stands Still

(Contd. from page 67)

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B.B. Tarei  
Counsellor(Political)

EMBASSY OF INDIA  
KABUL

32

No.KAB/501/1/86

June 10, 1990

My dear Vijay,

Please refer to your letter No. J/II/551/13/86 dated 24.5.90 regarding acquisition of the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chander Bose had stayed for 43 days in February-March 1941.

2. As per the instructions of Ambassador, First Secretary(Project), Shri KK Varma, Head of Chancery and self visited the house and area to assess the exact situation. FS(Project), who is of the rank of a Suptdt. Engineer in CPWD, has prepared a report which is enclosed for your perusal. After visiting the site, we had a discussion with our Ambassador explaining to him the difficulties and improbables that are standing on the way for restoration and renovation of the existing dilapidated kucha house or even erecting a memorial plaque on the site.

3. FS(Project) has given a rough estimate of expenditure of Afs. 5 million equivalent to Rs. 1 million at the prevailing current rate of exchange for repairs and renovation of the existing structure without taking into consideration the cost of acquisition of land and building. Since the entire locality is going to be demolished and reconstructed, it would be difficult to even erect a plaque. Therefore, our suggestion is to defer the case for the time being till such time as the local Government takes a final decision on reconstruction of the area.

4. In the light of the above, we would be grateful to receive your approval as to whether we should go in for renovation and restoration of the existing kucha house or to erect a plaque, before we could make a formal request to the local authorities accordingly.

With warm regards,

Yours Sincerely,

(B.B. Tarei)

Shrimati Vijay Thakur Singh  
Under Secretary(Afghanistan)  
Ministry of External Affairs, NEW DELHI.

Encl.

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so 10/10/91  
Recd. from US (K)  
today 8.4.92 27/9



### Netaji's Memorial in Kabul

The building in Kabul where Netaji stayed in hiding for a few days during the year 1941 was visited on 5 th June, 1990 by a three member team comprising Counsellor (P), First Secretary (Project) & Head of Chancery. The building is located in the area known as Hindu Guzar of Shor Bazar.

The three storied building constructed on an area of about 90 Sqm is very old and there are signs of distress in the wooden frames of the structure. The approach to the building is through narrow winding streets which are unpaved and the surroundings are filthy. There is a proposal to demolish all old structures in this part of Kabul and the area is to be redeveloped.

To preserve the basic character of the building for a memorial, the structure could be rehabilitated with innovative modifications and made presentable with landscaped surroundings. Besides the cost of acquisition of land & building, probable expenditure on repairs & renovation will be the order of Afs 5.0 million.

Keeping in view the location of building & the proposed redevelopment of the area, repairs & renovation could be deferred for the time being.



CHITTA BASU  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(LOK SABHA)



Phone : 3782260  
28, Gurdwara Rakabganj Road  
New Delhi-110001

Dated 14.6.90

Dear Shri Gujral,

As you know, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose stayed for some time in Kabul enroute to Europe in the early forties. He reached Kabul on Jan, 27 1941 after his great escape from Calcutta on Jan, 16, 1941. He stayed in the house that belonged to Uttam Chand at Mohalla Hindu Guzar, Shore Bazar Kabul, Afghanistan, from Feb 9, 1941 to Feb 11, 1941 and again from Feb 15 to March 17, 1941. Bhagat Ram Talwar, an old Revolutionary who had helped Netaji in his escape from Peshawar to Kabul also stayed with Netaji. The book "Talwars of Pathan Land and Subhas Chandra's Great escape," authored by Bhagat Ram Talwar, refers to this House and describes the stay in great details.

I was told that the House is not being maintained properly and is in dilapidated condition. We strongly feel that the Govt. of India should get the House and set a suitable memorail in honour of Netaji, which will be also a symbol of Indo-Afghan amity and friendship.

I wrote about it to the former External Affairs Minister, Sri Natwar Singh and subsequently to Sri Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister. Although assured of the appropriate actions, nothing seems to have been taken in that direction. I had an occassion ~~for me~~ to meet the leadership of the PDPA who indicated positive response.

Now that the balateral relation with the Govt. of Afganistan has reached <sup>new</sup> stage, I believe, the Afgan Govt. would respond to our request.

..2/-



CHITTA BASU  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(LOK SABHA)



Phone : 3782260  
28, Gurdwara Rakabganj Road  
New Delhi-110001

Dated

- 2 -

I shall be highly obliged if you kindly  
take up the matter with the Govt. of Afganisatn.

I enclose herewith all correspondences  
made with the Govt. in this regard for your kind  
perusal.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(CHITTA BASU)

Shri I.K. Gujarat,  
Minister of External Affairs,  
Govt. of India,  
New Delhi.



**Chitta Basu**  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(RAJYA SABHA)



Phone Nos. 3782260  
3782578

28, Gurdwara Rakabganj Road,  
New Delhi-1.

Dt. 6.3.89.

Dear Sri Sen,

Kindly refer to my discussion with you over phone on 3rd March, 89 in connection with my discussion with the Prime Minister regarding (a) the takeover of the House in Kabul, Afghanistan, where Netaji stayed enroute to Europe during the 2nd World War and (b) our proposal for Joint research work on the history of freedom movement. I am sending herewith copies of letters addressed to the Prime Minister in this connection, for your follow up action.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

encl: as above.

(Chitta Basu)

Shri R. Sen,  
Joint Secretary,  
P.M. Secretariat,  
New Delhi.

Letter to PM on 30.9.88 (10 encl)  
Letter from K. Narayan Singh on 30.6.88  
to PM on 30.8.88 (Chitta)  
Letter to N. Singh on 14.5.88 (10 encl)  
Letter to Lal Bahadur Shastri on 12.8.88



Chitta Basu  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
( RAJYA SABHA )



Phone No. 382260  
384576

28, Gurdwara Rakabgunj Road,  
New Delhi-1.

30-9-1988.

Dear Prime Minister,

As you know, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose reached Kabul on January 27 in 1941, after his great escape from Calcutta on January 16, 1941. He stayed in the House that belongs to Uttam Chand, an old revolutionary at Mohalla Hindu Gazar, Shor Bazar, Kabul, from February 9, 1941 to February 11, 1941 and again from February 15, 1941 to 17 March, 1941. Bhagat Ram Talwar, an old revolutionary who had helped Netaji in his escape from Peshawar to Kabul, had also stayed with Netaji in that house at Kabul. There was a reference of this House and the room in which Netaji had stayed, in the Book, "The Talwars of Pathan Land and Subhas Chandra's Great Escape."

I quote the relevant portion :

" The residence of Uttam Chand was in the upper storey of a two-storeyed building in Mohalla Hindu Gazar. The floor was occupied by one Roshanlal, a Hindu from Peshawar. The house consisted of three rooms in addition to the kitchen and the bath room. The two of us (Netaji and Bhagat Ram Talwar) were given a separate room furnished after the Central-Asian fashion. The floor was covered with durries and carpets. There was a sandli (a sort of small wooden table under which there is an angithi which keeps the huge quilts in the room warm) in the middle of the room and three thick and low mattresses with cushions around the sandli which were used for sitting and also as beds at night. Netaji and I used two of these mattresses while the third would be taken by others coming into the room."

(page 101).

I am told that the said house is not being maintained properly and during it may be dilapidated soon. For every Indian patriot, the House is a sacred place. I strongly feel that the Government of India should take necessary action, to take over the house and maintain it properly as a monument of historical and national significance.

I took up the matter with Shri K. Natwar Singh, Minister of State, External Affairs, who was kind enough to send me a letter of acknowledgement No. VIP-910/MOS(M) 88 dated 30th June, 1988. Since then, I have not received any information from the Ministry of External Affairs.

I shall be glad if you kindly take interest in the matter and take appropriate action.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Chitta Basu)

Shri Rajiv Gandhi,  
Prime Minister,  
India.



VIP-710/MOSCNUJ

विदेश राज्य मंत्री  
भारत

MINISTER OF STATE  
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
INDIA

June 30, 1988.

Dear Chitta Basu,

I have received your letter of 14th May, 1988 and noted the proposal for acquiring the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had stayed for a few weeks in February/March 1941.

With good wishes

Yours sincerely,

(K. Natwar-Singh)

Shri Chitta Basu, MP,  
28, Gurudwara Rakabganj Road,  
New Delhi-110 001.



**Chitta Basu**

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
( RAJYA SABHA )



Phone No. 332300  
334576

28, Garudwara Rastabgunj Road,  
New Delhi-110 001.

Dated 14.5.1988

Dear Shri Singh,

As you know, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose reached Kabul on January 27 in 1941, after his great escape from Calcutta on January 16, 1941. He stayed in the House that belongs to Uttam Chand, an old revolutionary at Mohalla Hindu Gazar, Shor Bazar, Kabul, from February 9, 1941 to February 11, 1941 and again from February 15, 1941 to 17 March, 1941. Bhagat Ram Talwar, an old revolutionary who had helped Netaji in his escape from Peshawar to Kabul, had also stayed with Netaji in that house at Kabul. There was a reference of this House and the room in which Netaji had stayed, in the book, "The Talwars of Pathan Land and Subhas Chandra's Great Escape".

I quote the relevant portion :

" The residence of Uttam Chand was in the upper storey of a two-storeyed building in Mohalla Hindu Gazar. The floor was occupied by one Boshanlal, a Hindu from Peshawar. The house consisted of three rooms in addition to the kitchen and the bathroom. The two of us (Netaji and Bhagat Ram Talwar) were given a separate room furnished after the Central-Asian fashion. The floor was covered with durries and carpets. There was a gandli (a sort of small wooden table under which there is an angithi which keeps the huge quilts in the room warm) in the middle of the room and three thick and low mattresses with cushions around the gandli which were used for sitting and also as beds at night. Netaji and I used two of these mattresses while the third would be taken by others coming into the room."

(page 101)

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I send herewith 5 photographs of the said house, which have been presented to me by an Indian journalist who recently visited the place.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Chitta Basu)





विदेश मंत्री  
भारत  
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
INDIA

S-2359/EAMFio

NEW DELHI-110011

30th May, 1990.

*My dear Sumit,*

I have received your letter dated 18th May, 1990. I am having the matter looked into.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

(I.K. GUJRAL)

Shri Sumit Chakravartty,  
Mainstream Weekly,  
F-24, Bhagat Singh Market,  
NEW DELHI-110001.



# Mainstream

CURRENT AFFAIRS WEEKLY

F-24, Bhagat Singh Market, New Delhi-110001

Telephone : 344772 and 323520

Cable : MAINWEEKLY

Editor

NIKHIL CHAKRAVARTY

May 18, 1990

Mr. I.K. Gujral  
Honourable Minister for External Affairs  
New Delhi

Respected Gujral Sahib,

Apropos my conversation with you at the dinner for the Foreign Correspondents Association on May 15, I am enclosing herewith a photo-copy of the article I wrote in the Republic Day Special issue of Mainstream (January 28, 1989) on the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhas Bose took shelter with Bhagat Ram Talwar in February 1941 after his daring escape from Calcutta in January 1941 (when he sought to contact both Germany and the USSR before finally leaving for Berlin via Moscow).

As I told you, that house could be turned into a memorial as it represents a symbol of Indo-Afghan friendship (another such symbol - the building that housed Raja Mahendra Pratap's Provisional Revolutionary Government of India in Kabul - remains untaceable, having perished on account of the march of time). But first the task is to see that it does not suffer demolition since buildings of old Kabul are planned to be destroyed for construction of new ones.

.....2/-



# Mainstream

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F-24, Bhagat Singh Market, New Delhi-110001

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Editor

NIKHIL CHAKRAVARTTY

- 2 -

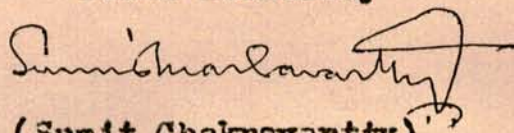
Mr. I.P. Khosla, our former Ambassador in Kabul (who is mentioned in the enclosed article), knows everything about that house. You could get the details from him. Thereafter I presume the Afghan Government could be requested to (i) preserve the building; and (ii) have the whole building or a part of it turned into a memorial-museum-cum-library-cum-school symbolising Indo-Afghan friendship. I am certain if you take up the issue with the Afghan authorities at the time of the next meeting of the Indo-Afghan Joint Commission, you will get a positive response from the Afghan side now that Dr. Najibullah and his Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Wakil, are so keen to forge closer bonds of friendship with India.

I am prepared to meet you at your convenience for a further discussion on the issue (although I do not want to encroach on your valuable time).

Hope this finds both Sheilaaji and you in the best of health.

With best regards

Yours sincerely



(Sumit Chakravartty)  
Special Correspondent  
Mainstream

Copy to: Mr. M.K. Bhadra Kumar  
Director, Iran-Afghanistan Division,  
Ministry of External Affairs, N.Delhi.



## Where Time Stands Still

SUMIT CHAKRAVARTTY

IF you visit Mohalla Hindu Guzar of Shor Bazar in old Kabul you will get the unmistakable feeling that the clock of time has not moved an inch since the early forties. In a fast changing world that indeed is unique. Modernity has failed to make any dent there. The same dingy lanes, the same uneven muddy path, the same houses made of mud, clay and wood, as it was in 1941.

True, I was not born in 1941 having arrived in this world four years later. But the old residents of that area would vouch that the surroundings have not changed since then.

Why the focus on the year 1941? Because it was in that year that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, that dauntless crusader for India's freedom, had spent more than a month at the residence of one Uttam Chand in Mohalla Hindu Guzar on his way to Europe after his legendary escape from Calcutta.

Netaji had escaped from Calcutta on January 16, 1941. He arrived in Kabul on January 27 and spent slightly less than two months there incognito upto March 18 while seeking to establish contacts with Moscow or Berlin, and making preparations to reach Germany. That was the time when he spent over one month enjoying the hospitality of freedom fighter Uttam Chand Malhotra (from February 9 to 11 and from February 15 to March 17) at the latter's double-storeyed residence.

Forty-eight years have elapsed since then, years of expectation and blighted hopes, a period that saw a sea-change in the political landscape of both India and Afghanistan, a time-span that found a deepening of the controversy surrounding Netaji's demise. But that building in Hindu Guzar remains unchanged even if it has switched hands. So is the room on the second floor where Netaji had spent so many anxious days and nights as the guest of Uttam Chand.

Yes, that building is a bridge between India and Afghanistan cementing further the close friendship between our two countries and peoples. That can also be said of the building which housed Raja Mahendra Pratap's provisional revolutionary government in Kabul. However, the latter building remains untraceable till today perhaps having perished as an inevitable consequence of the inexorable march of time.

Almost a year ago, in April 1988, we — a few Indian visitors to Kabul — made a trip to that house with I.P. Khosla, the affable, friendly and highly accessible Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, and his artist wife Gauri Khosla. It was a kind of pilgrimage for us. The significance of the house in the history of our freedom struggle cannot be belittled.

The Ambassador felt that prompt measures ought to be taken to help preserve the building in Mohalla Hindu Guzar. The urgency of the matter is heightened because steps are already afoot to implement

a plan envisaging demolition of most of the buildings in old Kabul and subsequent erection of new ones.

Khosla thought a part of the building could be taken over and a school symbolising Indo-Afghan friendship run there. It could also have a library named after Netaji so as to perpetuate his memory in view of the privation and hardship that he silently underwent in that house while keeping alive the fire of patriotism in his heart after one of the most daring escapes of this century.

During his voyage to Kabul, from Peshawar and his stay in the Afghan capital, Netaji had a constant and loyal companion and guide in that tireless Pathan communist revolutionary Bhagat Ram Talwar whose contribution in ensuring the success of Netaji's escape was truly immense and immeasurable. Netaji used to call him by his code name Rahmat Khan. One of his elder brothers Hari Kishan was executed like Bhagat Singh in 1930 on account of active participation in armed struggle against the British Raj. And his another elder brother Ram Kishan, leader of formerly the Kirti Party and thereafter the Communist Party, was drowned in the Amu Daria river during a bid to cross it while engaged in preparations for Netaji's escape.

Bhagat Ram Talwar's book — *The Talwars of Pathan Land and Subhash Chandra's Great Escape* (published in June 1976) — is highly absorbing as it details one of the most vital parts of Netaji's escape. In his foreword to the book, the late Chinmohan Sehanavis, writer and historian, noted: "... the book gives out for the first time an authentic and almost hourly account of the final lap of Subhash Chandra Bose's thrilling escape in January 1941 from India, across the tribal area, to Afghanistan and his extremely hazardous stay there for almost two months before he finally left for Berlin via Moscow. The first account of the escape had, of course, appeared in February or March 1946 in a series of articles by Uttam Chand in *The Hindustan Times*. The latter was, for some time, Subhash Chandra's host at Kabul, whose help Bhagat Ram was forced to seek under precarious circumstances."

The book vividly describes the residence of Uttam Chand. One was struck by the fact that it (including the room allotted to Netaji) retained almost the same appearance as when Netaji had first stepped into it.

"The residence of Uttam Chand," Bhagat Ram Talwar wrote, "was in the upper storey of a two-storeyed building in Mohalla Hindu Guzar. The floor was occupied by one Roshan Lal, a Hindu from Peshawar. The house consisted of three room in addition to the kitchen and the bath-room. The two of us were given a separate room furnished after the Central Asian fashion. The floor was

(Contd. on page 70)

January 23 was Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's ninetysecond birth anniversary. —Editor



डा० सं० 4057 जे० एन० (ग० नि०)/1990  
 प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय  
 PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
 Dated 13/7

नई दिल्ली-110011  
 NEW DELHI-110011

23/28/1990  
 26/7

351/12/88

2302-2471A2A  
 28/7

Please find enclosed, for your information and appropriate action, a copy of the letter which PM has sent to Shri Chitta Basu, General Secretary, All India Forward Bloc. MEA may kindly keep us apprised of further developments.

1

Is montri  
 have given  
 copy to  
 K and Anand  
 25/12/85  
 24/7

yshankar  
 (Meera Shankar)  
 Director

Joint Secretary(IPA), MEA

PMO. O.O. NO. 580/53/C/3/2052 Dh. 12-7-90

Sir (7)  
 25/7

48(A). 18/24/7 26/7  
 50(A)

M/5



## Sumit : Where Time Stands Still

(Contd. from page 67)

covered with durries and carpets. There was a *sandli* (a sort of small wooden table under which there is an *angithi* which keeps the huge quilts in the room warm) in the middle of the room and three thick and low mattresses with cushions around the *sandli* which were used for sitting and also as beds at night. Netaji and I used two of these mattresses while the third would be taken by others coming into our room."

From the roof of the building one can see the magnificent fort of Bala Hissar and beyond it the snow capped mountain peaks. One gets a view of Kabul's sky-line as well. Perhaps it was same as the one Netaji had seen fortyeight years ago, at least in that part of Kabul city covering Shor Bazar.

The war in Afghanistan is about to take a new turn — for the better or the worse. Would the Geneva accords usher in genuine peace and stability? That question is now assuming prime importance. At this moment India's active role in improving the situation in Afghanistan acquires special importance. Against such a backdrop is it not essential for the Government of India to take appropriate measures and get that building in Mohalla Hindu Guzar, once hallowed by Netaji's presence and stay, converted into a memorial in honour of Netaji, that

stalwart of our national movement?

Let us not forget that house — a mute witness to a remarkable part of our history — where the clock of time has failed to move for years together. □

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## PRIME MINISTER

New Delhi  
July 9, 1990

Dear Shri Basu Ji,

Please refer to your letter of 1st March in which you have, inter alia, suggested that the Indian Government should purchase the house in Kabul where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had stayed for some time and set up a suitable Memorial there.

Our Ambassador in Kabul has had discussions with the Afghan authorities on this proposal. The Afghan Government has reacted positively. However, the House is in the old part of Kabul city in an area earmarked for demolition. The Mayor of Kabul has been requested to indicate if the House can be saved from demolition. If this can be done, we could consider acquiring/restoring the House and converting it into a Memorial/Museum or Library. If, however, the House cannot be saved then the best course would be to erect a Memorial Plaque on the site.

Our Ambassador is in touch with the Afghan authorities on this issue and we hope to be in a position to take a final decision shortly.

As regards your proposal that we should rebuild the INA Memorial in Singapore, it is understood that the Government of Singapore's response has not been positive.

The other suggestions made by you for commemorating Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose are being considered in consultation with the Departments concerned.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

[Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

Shri Chitta Basu  
General Secretary  
All India Forward Bloc  
28, Gurudwara Rakabganj Road  
New Delhi-110001



प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय  
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE  
Dated.....

नई दिल्ली-110011  
NEW DELHI-110011

Please find enclosed, for your information and appropriate action, a copy of the letter which PM has sent to Shri Chitta Basu, General Secretary, All India Forward Bloc. MEA may kindly keep us apprised of further developments.

*Meera Shankar*  
(Meera Shankar)  
Director

Joint Secretary(IPA), MEA

PMO. UO. No. 580/53/C/3/90582 Dt: 12-7-90

M

MS(M)





PRIME MINISTER

New Delhi  
July 9, 1990

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Regards,

Yours sincerely,

[Vishwanath Pratap Singh]

Shri Chitta Basu  
General Secretary  
All India Forward Bloc  
28, Gurudwara Rakabganj Road  
New Delhi-110001



PROF. SAMAR GUHA  
EX-MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
(LOK SABHA)



284/Atg/01  
21/3/90  
8/2 CENTRAL PARK  
CALCUTTA 700032

Sept 18/1990

Dear Shri Gujral,

V-32241 EAM/12  
11/10/90

I know that you are worryingly busy with the problems of Gulf Crisis. Still I am writing this letter to you as the matter needs your timely attention.

Au

I am very happy to know that the President of Afghanistan Mr. Najibullah, has very graciously agreed to preserve the house at Kabul where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose took shelter on his way to Berlin across the Russian Territory. If there is any difficulty in locating the house Shri Bhagat Ram, who escorted Netaji from Peswar to Kabul, is still alive. He has written a book on Netaji's the episode of escape and stay at Kabul. He is now a member of CPI and I am sure CPI friends will be able to give his present address or Comrade Ramkrishan of former Kirti Kisan Party and an former Chief Minister of Punjab will also be able to help you to get the address of Shri Bhagat Ram. Late Uttam Chand Malhotra's family members will also be able to locate the house at Kabul.

L  
4/9  
F.S.

Would I make another suggestion to you to make a request to President of Afghanistan, Mr. Najibullah. Two plaques should be set up, - one, at the entry-point in Afghanistan where Netaji entered that land from across the Tribal area on his journey to Kabul from Peswar and second, on the point of the Afghan side of the river Tigris which Netaji crossed to enter into Russian territory on his way to Moscow through land route and from where he flew to Berlin. These two places are of great historic importance as they are landmarks in the episode of Netaji's revolutionary pilgrimage for Indian liberation.

Expecting a reply from you.

With best wishes and hoping your success in the matters of the Gulf crisis.

Shri I. K. Gujral  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
New Delhi

Yours sincerely,

Samar Guha  
( SAMAR GUHA )

P.S. : A copy of the letter to the President of Afghanistan is enclosed.



PROF. SAMAR GUHA  
Ex. संसद् सदस्य  
(लोक सभा)



8/2 CENTRAL PARK  
CALCUTTA 700032  
INDIA

September 18/1990

His Excellency  
Mr. Najibullah  
President of Afghanistan  
Kabul  
Afghanistan

Your Excellency,

Indian people are full of praise for your excellency's assurance to preserve the house at Kabul where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the legendary hero of Indian Freedom, took shelter in course of his revolutionary escape from British India and on his way to Germany via Russia.

If there is any difficulty to identify the location of that historic house at Kabul our Foreign Ministry will be able to identify the house with the help of Mr. Bhagat Ram who accompanied Netaji as his escort from Peswar to Kabul. Mr. Bhagat Ram is alive and at present he is a member of the Communist Party of India (CPI).

I would make another humble request to you, as an associate of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, to set up two pleques, - one at the entry-point in Afghanistan, where Subhas Chandra Bose got into the Afgan territory across the Tribal Region from Peswar and second, at the point of the Southern side of the river Tigris which Netaji crossed to enter into Russian territory to reach Moscow and from where he flew to Berlin.

It is fervently believed by the Indian people that as a great leader of the Afgan Revolution you will warmly agree to honour the revolutionary leadership of the greatest hero of Indian National Liberation.

With warm greetings and regards,

Yours sincerely,

*Samar Guha*

( SAMAR GUHA )



क्र. सं०

Dy No.

दिनांक

Dated

जे. एन. (आईपीए)/1990

J S (IPA)/1990

5344

8/11/90



विदेश मंत्री  
भारत

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
INDIA

V.3224/EAM/90

NEW DELHI-110011

October 5, 1990

Dear Prof. Guha Jee,

I have received your letter of September 18, 1990, regarding setting up of plaques at the entry/exit-points of Subhas Chandra Bose in Afghanistan. It is receiving my attention.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(I.K. GUJRAL)

Prof. Samar Guha  
Ex-Member of Parliament  
8/2, Central Park  
CALCUTTA-700032

JS (IPA)  
le spm

19/10/90  
21/3/91

It was discussed with  
And and we have to  
wait for the decision  
of Afghan govt on  
our proposed plaque



















